



Understanding and working with the Latino Population

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Expansive Population Growth



- This unprecedented growth and its current size is largely attributable to **high immigration and birth rates.**
- If current patterns persist, there will be over **100 million Hispanics** living in the United States **by the year 2050**

Diversity



- The majority of Hispanics living in the United States is not composed of immigrants; majority was born here.
- Approximately 60% of Hispanic Residents are US Citizens by birth



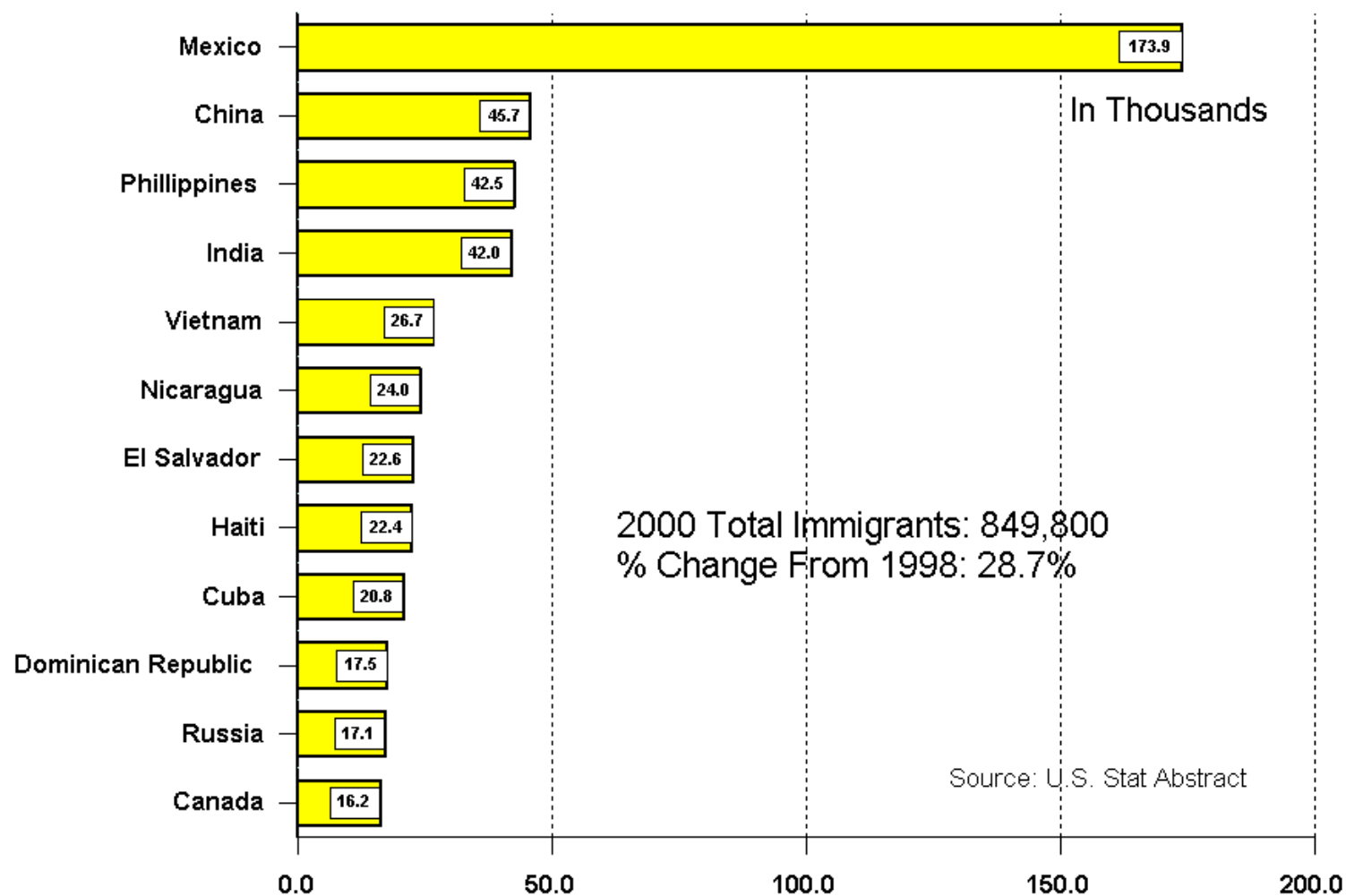


Hispanic vs. Latino?

- Hispanic refers to people whose native language is Spanish or who are descendants of Spanish speaking ancestors.
- Latino is generally used to describe US residents of Latin American origin, regardless of their native language.
- Hispanic/Latino is neither a racial nor ethnic category.

Figure 2

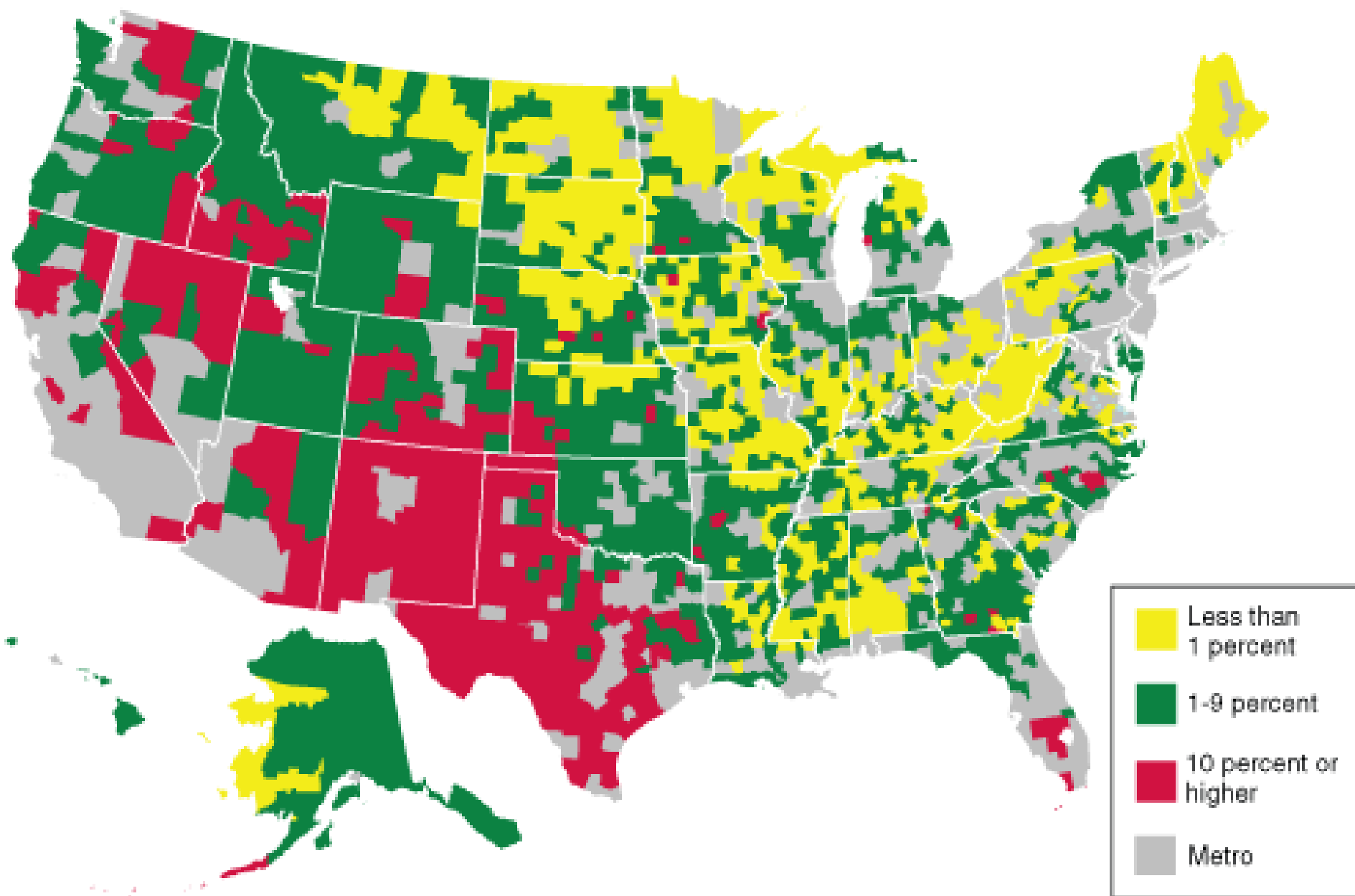
U.S. Legal Immigration By Leading Country Of Birth: 2000



Urban vs. Rural

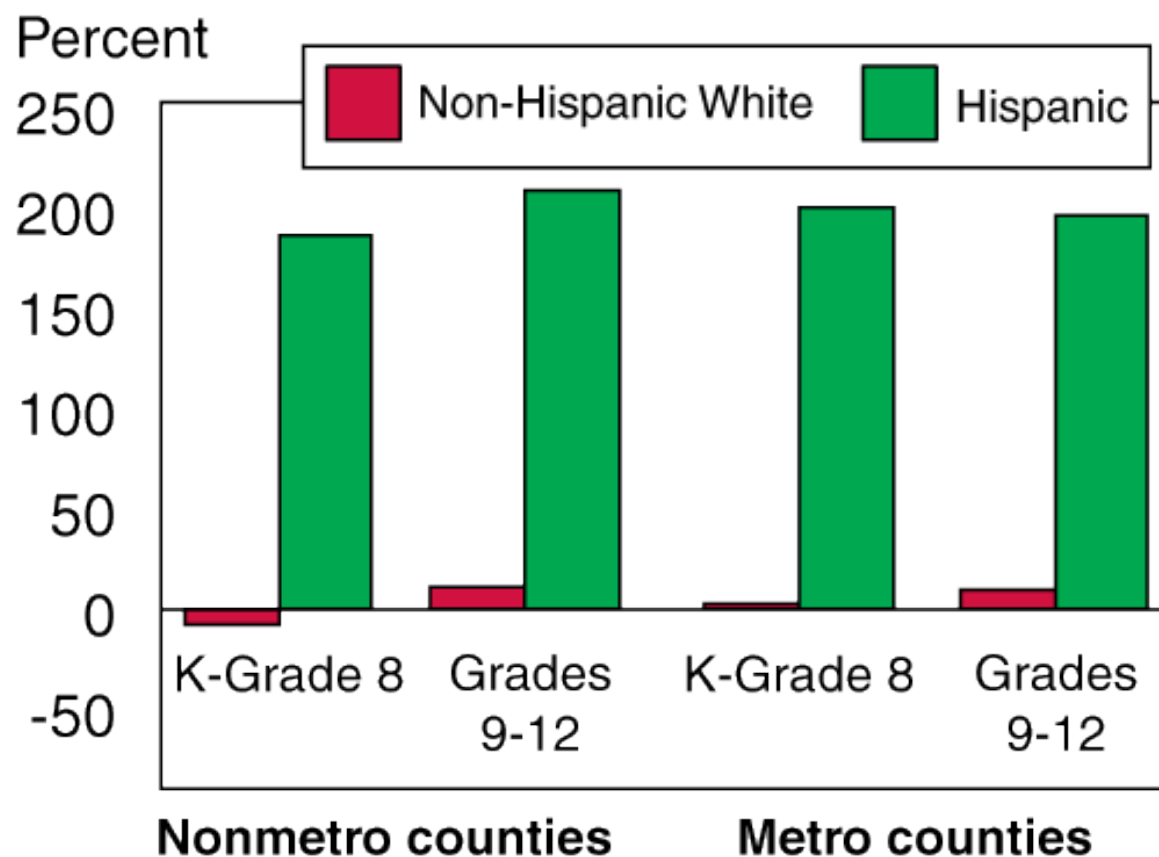
- There is a tendency to stereotype Hispanics as rural but Hispanics are considerably more urban than the rest of the US population.
- **Only about 10 percent of Hispanics live outside of metropolitan areas**, while almost a quarter of non-Hispanics do.
- Within these urban areas, Hispanics are likely to hold lower-wage jobs in construction, retail trade, and service.
- Suburban counties surrounding major cities have attracted substantial numbers of Hispanics due to the labor needs associated with the construction and landscaping industry.

Nonmetro Hispanic population, 2000



Source: Compiled by ERS using data from the 2000 U.S. Census.

Change in school enrollment rates between 1990 and 2000



Source: Compiled by ERS using data from the 2000 U.S. Census

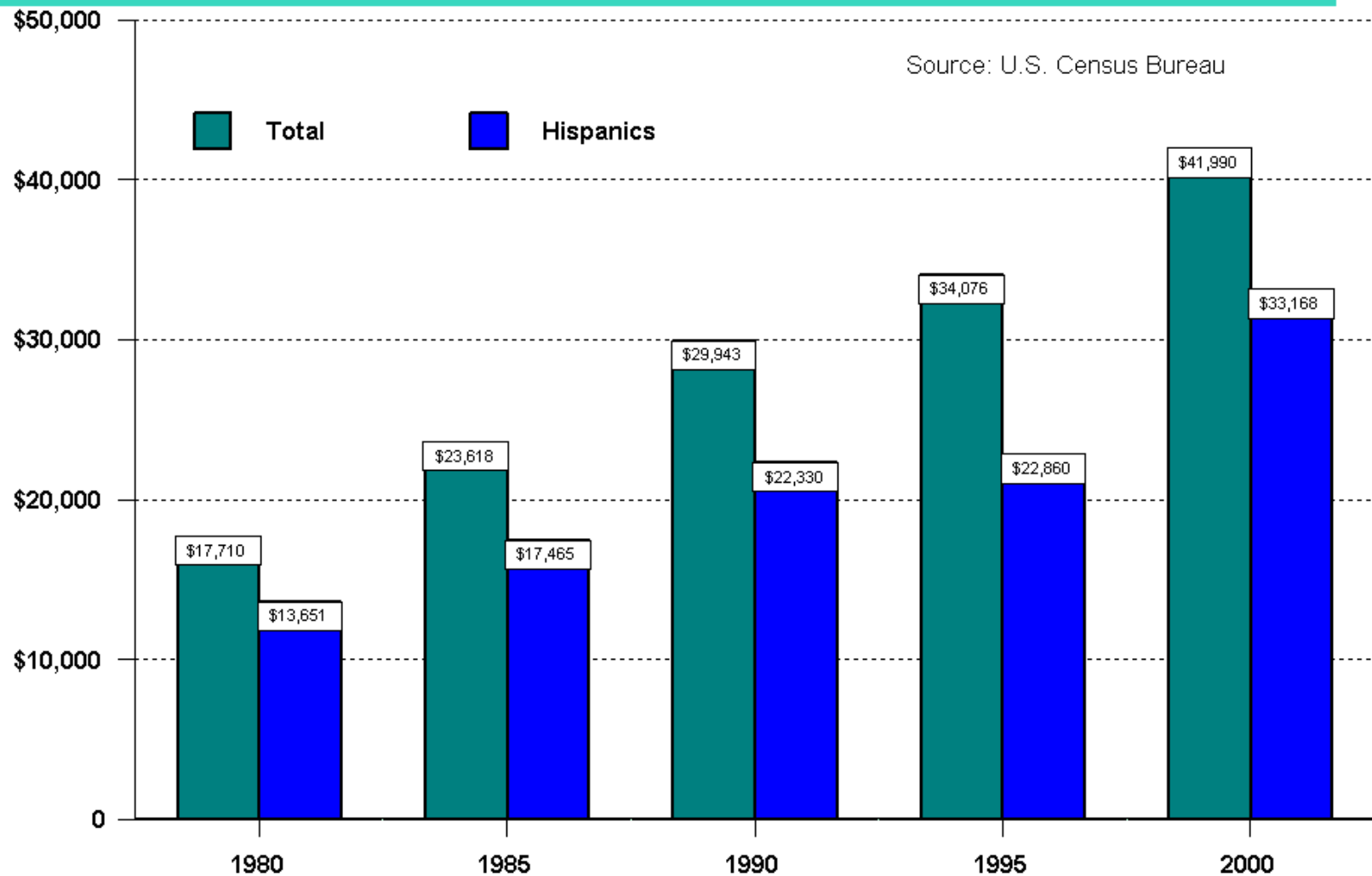


Figure 6

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

United States: 1980-2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Local Communities Acting Globally:

*How Rural Georgia Communities
are Meeting the challenge
Head-On*



Hispanics in Georgia

- Official estimate: ~ 600,000

US Census Bureau, 2005

- Unofficial estimate: up to 1.2 million

GA Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

- 6.2% of the population

Selig Center for Economic Growth

- Most live in urban or metropolitan areas

US Census Bureau

- 200,000-250,000 undocumented immigrants

Pew Hispanic Center



Georgia as State dealing with Immigrant Labor

- PRO side: Georgia needs to compete and decide if it will rely on foreign labor
 - State & County economic outlook
- CON side: Pass legislation to tackle the elimination of public spending for “illegal” immigrants

Sample County Responses to the Hispanic Workforce in the State



Financial Literacy

- 50% of Latin American immigrants are “unbanked.” source: www.iadb.org
- Most are good credit risk for lenders

Community Response

- A bilingual Extension educator now **educates the Hispanic population on financial literacy** (Tift and Colquitt counties).
- **Bilingual bank tellers** (Oconee, Putnam).
- **Remittance transfer services** at certain banks (e.g., Oconee)



Education

- Hispanics have the highest high school dropout rate in Georgia (51.5%)

Community Response: Whitfield County

- The **Georgia Project**: Cross cultural experience for teachers
- The **International Inclusion Center**



Education

Community Response

- High School Equivalency Program (**HEP**), and College Assistance Migrant Program (**CAMP**)—Tift County
- **Daycare for children of parents getting their GED** (Polk County)



Health

- A significant share of Hispanics with no usual place to go for medical care are high school graduates (50 percent), were born in the United States (30 percent) and have health insurance (45 percent). *Pew Hispanic Center.*

Community Response

- Hispanic **Health fairs**
- **Health Clinics** for the Hispanic community
- **Health education** classes in Spanish
- **Interpreters face to face and on the phone**
- **Translated forms**, such as Free and Reduced Food Program forms



Employment

Community Response

- **Public transportation**
 - Polk County
 - Atlanta's MARTA system is targeting immigrants with a Spanish-language advertising campaign and early-morning routes along "Ruta 39"
- Home Depot and Oconee County built **shelters to protect day laborers** from the elements



Crime Prevention and Policing

- Violent robberies and murders of Hispanics occurred in 2005.

Community Response: Tift County

- Thorough **investigation**
- Easier requirements to **open bank accounts**
- **Cultural training** for law enforcement by Extension Agents
- Community meetings to **reduce tension** between African Americans and Hispanics
- Bilingual personnel in the Sheriff's department, jail and courts—Oconee
- Translation of some court documents—Oconee
- Mayor of Whitfield directed police to only pull drivers over if they have a visible cause



Housing & Fraud

CONSUMER FRAUD in housing and other consumable goods

Community Response

- Education
- Police investigation
- DOJ

Thoughts

- What is our bottom line as a state?
- What kind of conversation should we have about the future?
- What role will immigrants play in the future to guide our actions and requests of the people?